

The School Bulletin

THE GREYFRIARS PROJECT: HUNTING FOR KING RICHARD III

Mathew Morris reports on the 2012 royal excitement at Leicester:

With the extensive world media interest in **The Greyfriars Project**, few can have missed news of the hunt for King Richard III. However, when first approached by the Richard III Society about an excavation to find the lost Franciscan friary church, Richard III's burial place, the possibility of success could only be described at best as a long-shot. Little is known about Greyfriars: it was founded in the 13th century and its only notable claim to fame is its choice as the burial site for King Richard III in 1485. Plundered for building material in the 16th century, its precise location had become lost over time.

However, recent map regression analysis had narrowed the search down to a single block in Leicester's town centre. Despite the site today being covered with modern redevelopment, several open areas still remain, notably a City Council car park. A first attempt to find the remains of the friary used Ground Penetrating Radar. It was hoped that this would find the walls of the church under the ground before the excavation began, but unfortunately, it proved unsuccessful. So, archaeologists from ULAS opened three trenches to search for clues to the whereabouts of the friary. These trenches were orientated N-S, the reasoning being that a church should be aligned E-W, and therefore cutting trenches at right-angles across its axis should provide the best opportunity to find some of its walls.

Medieval archaeology was found over a metre beneath the modern ground. In the southern half of Trench 1 a stone building containing the remains of a tiled floor and stone benches built against the walls was found. It continued west into Trench 2, where it joined a long N-S corridor running the length of the trench. The corridor had also been floored with tiles, now missing but their impressions still preserved on the underlying mortar grouting.

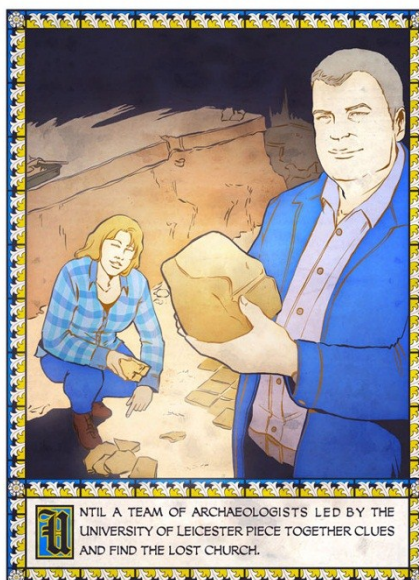
Little evidence for the church lay in the first two trenches, apart from a skeleton found at the north end of Trench 1. However, remains of a large E-W building (about 8m wide) were found in Trench 3. Also once floored with decorated tiles, it contained remains of choir stalls and demolished tombs; the building rubble included parts of a grand 15th-century window.

The archaeology suggests that the building and the corridor found in the first two trenches is the friary's Chapter House and part of the eastern Cloistral Walk; whilst the building in Trench 3 is the eastern end of the friary church, most likely part of the choir and presbytery. This means that the rest of the choir can be projected back west into Trench 1, where modern disturbance had destroyed all evidence of the building but a grave which had been dug inside the choir, late in the friary's use, had been found.



When excavated, the grave was found to contain the skeleton of a male adult. The grave was simple but respectful with no evidence of a coffin, whilst the man exhibits trauma suggesting he died in battle. Crucially, the skeleton has spinal abnormalities consistent with severe scoliosis – a form of spinal curvature. In life, this would have made his right shoulder appear visibly higher than the left shoulder—something that matches contemporary accounts of Richard III's appearance.

Analysis of the human remains is ongoing; including the detailed examination of the skeleton itself, DNA testing, carbon-dating, stable isotope analysis and facial reconstruction are underway, drawing on the skills of various University, ULAS and departmental staff. Keep your eyes peeled on the Uni's website!



NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

By Professor Lin
Foxhall

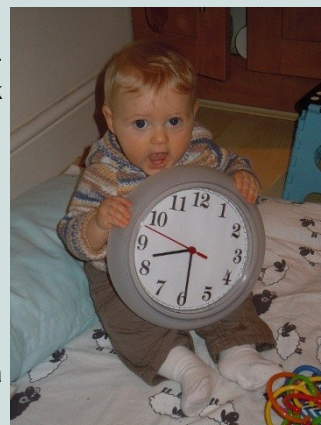


It's been a very exciting moment to start as Head of School, thanks to the great efforts of the ULAS team working with Richard Buckley on the Grey Friars and Richard III project—see the front page of this *Bulletin* for all the news on the dig and the questions it has thrown up. Post-excavation work (and filming) have been charging ahead all term, and we'll be expecting the next big announcement in the New Year.

We have two new members of staff joining the School of Archaeology and Ancient History in 2013. Dr Turi King has been appointed Lecturer in Genetics and Archaeology, and though she will be seconded to the 'Diasporas' project as Project Manager, we are delighted to welcome her to the School. Also, Dr Mary Harlow will be joining us as a Senior Lecturer in Roman History from February, although she will be spending the first six months of her post at the Center for Textile Research at the University of Copenhagen.

We are pleased to welcome several new postdoctoral researchers to the School include Leo Web-ley, working with Professor Colin Haselgrove on the *Tracing Networks Project*, Fran Cole and Nick Ray on David Mattingly's Trans Sahara Project, and Floris van der Eijnde, funded by the Gerda Henkel Stiftung to work on sanctuaries in Iron Age and Archaic Attica (Greece). And, we mustn't forget baby Maya, born in May 2012 to Craig Cipolla and his wife Kelly.

Katharina Rebay-Salisbury and Rod Salisbury have left us physically with lovely baby Daniel (pictured on the right checking when his next meal time is), who arrived in March 2012, since Rod has taken up a post in Vienna. But, Katharina continues to serve as Project Manager for the *Tracing Networks Project*, and, thanks to Skype, joins us regularly for meetings and discussions. We will also be sad to say good-bye to Adam Rogers (British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow) and Borja Legarra Herrero (Leverhulme Early Career Fellow) who will be leaving us. And, thanks to the creation of a new Arts and Humanities DL Hub, two of our terrific administrators, Lara Callaghan and Pauline Carroll have left (or rather, more accurately, been seconded from) the School and moved to the new Hub (though we're in regular contact with them).



The start of 2013 will be a busy and exciting one: from 9-12 January the School's Centre for Historical Archaeology is helping to host the massive 46th annual conference of the *Society for Historical Archaeology* with its themes of 'Globalization, immigration, transformation'. As well as its multiple sessions, there is a special Leicestershire-themed day on the final day, with stalls, re-enactments, displays, and news of course on Richard III. Thanks to the many staff and student helpers for this major event, which will help put us and the University of Leicester more firmly on the Historical Archaeology academic map.

Finally, and most importantly, we will all miss Colin Haselgrove's outstanding leadership, as he stepped down from being Head of School last July to embark on a long period of much-deserved study leave. That the School is so strong and buoyant now, in the lead-up to Research assessment in 2014 and the many changes that we are facing in terms of teaching and learning under the new fees regime, is thanks to his hard work and perseverance.



As we all battle with the recession, ULAS's work in 2012 has gradually begun to increase and has hit some amazing heights. Occasionally archaeological projects have an impact which resonates far beyond the profession and the University, as was the case with the amazing Greyfriars Richard III project described by Mathew Morris in this *Bulletin*.

The start of the year saw Roger Kipling and his team wrestling with the mud and cold in deepest Digbeth, Birmingham. Good sections of the medieval town ditch were located along with evidence of post-medieval bone working. Another phase of this work is to follow. Other fieldwork highlights include a third successful field school led by John Thomas and Jeremy Taylor at Burrough Hill (see p.6), more Palaeolithic tools and tantalising glimpses of Bytham River deposits at Brooksby Quarry, Mesolithic flint scatters and land surfaces at Attenborough and more evidence of Neolithic seasonal occupation at Willington, Derbyshire. In contrast Tim Higgins, who has been recording the Willington Neolithic deposits also led a team excavating four 19th-20th century pottery kilns at Lount (see image) in north-west Leicestershire. We are nothing if not versatile! Other discoveries of note included a small hoard of Corieltavian coins from with the Roman marching camp at Weston by Welland in Northamptonshire and Roman deposits including a fine section of tessellated pavement at Highcross Street, Leicester. Overall we have seen far more work outside Leicestershire and Rutland this year perhaps reflecting where the economic recovery is occurring.

ULAS's strong publication record has continued with three monographs and eight research papers over the past year with all the monographs, notably that on the Hallaton Hoard, receiving outstanding reviews. *Visions of Ancient Leicester* has continued to sell well (and a second print run!) along with the accompanying 2013 calendar. ULAS also provided over 40 outreach events including talks, open days and School visits. Of particular note has been Vicki Score's continued engagement with community groups where the Hallaton Fieldwork group's second season of excavation has confirmed the presence of St Morrell's Chapel, thought to be a medieval cult chapel and place of pilgrimage.

ULAS NEWS

By Patrick
Clay

THE DISTANCE LEARNING NEWS PAGE

A 2012 update from Dr Ruth Young

(Director of Distance Learning Strategy)

There have been a lot of changes in distance learning in the last 12 months reflecting wider changes in the University and new initiatives in the School. The new BA in Ancient History and Classical Archaeology was launched in February 2012 and has been very popular with students. This means that the School of Archaeology and Ancient History now offers two full undergraduate degrees by distance learning, reflecting the School's distinctive teaching and research strengths.

In July 2012 the School was extremely proud when the first BA in Archaeology DL students completed their degrees and attended graduation. Congratulations to Alice Bray, Pablo Cruz Font, Roman Golicz, Peter Heyes, Alan Saunders, Colleen Seward, Peter Spackman, and Alistair Thomson. This is a tremendous achievement and represents 6 years of very hard work.

From 2013 our BA students will also be graduating in the University's January graduation ceremony—this previously reserved for postgraduate students only, but now opened up to those of our undergraduate students who complete their degrees between July and December. We look forward to seeing our graduates!

Changes in DL administration have been extensive and we hope that once they have been worked through and settle in, they will make life easier for students and staff alike. The creation of a College of Arts, Humanities and Law (CAHL) distance learning 'hub' has been one of the biggest changes, leading to the relocation of two members of the administrative team in another building altogether.

The idea of a distance learning hub to deal with processes and issues common to all departments offering DL provision is aimed at removing duplication of key tasks and processes and to provide a central place for students to find answers to common questions.

The CAHL hub has resulted in major changes to the structure of our School administration team, with Lara and Pauline being seconded to the hub and moving over to Fielding Johnson Building, where they join Laura Freeman (hub leader), Dan Cox from Museum Studies and Rachel Eames from Registry. Both Lara and Pauline are greatly missed although they are still close enough to visit!

Other changes include the move to electronic assignment submission which again is intended to make processes easier for both staff and students. Of course such a change was always going to be met with mixed reviews, but the majority of students and staff are happy with the new process, and we are continuing to work with Ann Clayden in ITS to improve the system where we can and address issues raised by staff and students.



Below: meet the DL 'Hub' team of Rachel Eames, Dan Cox, Lara and Pauline



SCHOOL RESEARCH SEMINARS — JOIN US!!!

Don't forget that the School hosts a regular Wednesday pm Research Seminar during term time, with speakers from the department, affiliated departments or ULAS at Leicester, plus outside speakers, whether academics, museum staff, etc. Ranging from themes in ancient history through to modern archaeological debates or new field evidence, these are stimulating and valuable gatherings. All students of all years are invited as well as staff. Organised by the keen PhD student team of Ian Marshman, Meghann Mahoney and Anna Lewis, the proceedings begin in the School foyer at 4.30 with drinks and, more importantly, themed cakes—such as this amazing Richard III-themed work by DL undergrad student Angela Parker—before the serious talking begins at 5pm in the Charles Wilson building (Floor 2, Belvoir Park Lounge). Many a time the proceedings spill over to a nearby pub to continue the debate—hope you can join us in Semester 2 which has talks on iron Age weapon burials, guildhalls, Saharan trade, digital museums and much more!

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Life as a mission member on the South Asasif Excavation and Conservation Project, West Bank (Thebes), Luxor, May-June 2012.

By Pauline Carroll

Day 1 and my alarm clock sounded at 4am! As the sun started to rise over the Theban hills we left just before 5am to catch a service taxi to the site, en route passing the Colossi of Memnon which will be my daily journey to work. Unsurprisingly I am beaming in a sense of disbelief-yes this is real- I am on my way to work on an archaeological excavation in Egypt! As we approach the German dig house we shout 'henna' (stop), the hot-air balloons are already making their journey over the Valley of the Kings (fig 1, right).

Several Egyptian workmen are already on-site and one elder makes his journey dressed in his gallibaya riding a donkey (fig 2, below right). Some workmen sit drinking tea and with the exception of those smoking shisha it already feels like I've stepped back in time, half expecting Howard Carter to appear. We gather in the tent and are introduced by Dr Elena Pischikova, the Director of the project to the other team members before a site tour which left me speechless!



Working in Egypt is definitely not for the faint hearted: 5.30am starts, 45 degree heat and tricky working conditions; walking 'bridges of doom' and climbing down a 30ft shaft into the burial chamber of Karakhamun via two ladders tied together by rope - Indiana Jones eat your heart out! (fig 3, top right)

Alongside an international specialist team, the Egyptian workmen form the bulk of the team. Unlike other archaeological sites I have worked on the physical labour in Egypt is carried out by the c.50 man strong team namely 'bucket boys'. At first I found it strange not reaching for a mattock or shovel but it is quite a spectacle to watch them as they work like a conveyor-belt of ants; carrying bucket after bucket, in the heat of the sun, balancing on wooden planks, even those of the slightest build have the most incredible strength, the use of basic methods and common sense allowing the workmen under the watchful eye of the *Rais* (foreman) to work effectively. Though health and safety maybe somewhat non-existent in Egypt this enables them to achieve the methods of engineering that their ancestors once used over two millennia to construct the tomb.



My first few days on site were spent in the tomb of Karabasken, registering and recording limestone fragments excavated from the tomb of Karakhamun; occupation and flood damage over the centuries have resulted in the collapse of the ceiling and Pillared Halls thus the project focuses not only on excavation but also on conservation and reconstruction of the three large tombs of the 25th/26th dynasties. All of the limestone fragments are recorded, photographed and any hieroglyphics identified before labelled with the date, location and registration number on the reverse; the fragments are then matched by a skilled team of conservators who are essentially responsible for the re-building of this massive jigsaw.



As for finds...! My heart was skipping beats handling objects which are usually only visible through a glass cabinet or whilst wearing cotton gloves at a study day session in the UK. Even after counting endless faience beads, *shabtis*, amulets and Ostraca my face lit up with excitement as the next bag of freshly excavated faience beads arrived. Equally exciting was working on the plaster fragments of the astronomical ceiling from Karakhamun's burial chamber. One day there was great excitement when a faience scarab was found, the *Rais* handed it to me very carefully and it was beautiful, this was a very special moment and the Egyptians fed off of my excitement! This work is carried out in the tomb of Irtieru which meant crossing the

largest and scariest 'bridge of doom' to gain access. Working in these 'offices' also had the advantage of being cooler than the 40-45 degree heat outside.

For the remaining 2 weeks I helped supervise in the Open Court. It was a really fantastic experience working with the Egyptian workmen as there was great banter, and whilst only limited words of Arabic and English were shared the smiles and laughter spoke volumes. Despite the heat the workmen continue to work unphased until 11.30am. After they leave comes the on-site recording, levels, section drawings, feature recording as well as site photography. During the afternoon, once back at base, all of the registered objects and limestone fragments are recorded onto a database which is submitted with the site report at the end of the excavation season to the SCA (Supreme Council of Antiquities) in Cairo. The site is supervised daily by the SCA Chief Inspector, Ramadan Ahmed Ali.

Given the very dusty conditions on site, most days I wore a dust mask as the strata being excavated in the Open Court consist of occupational layers including use as a stable thus straw and other inclusions, debris, and earlier floods levels. On a daily basis I found myself handling and labelling mummy wrappings, cartonnage and pottery amongst the other objects previously mentioned.



I was very sad to leave – on my last day there was great excitement as a new trench was opened to locate the steps leading down into the vestibule! The whole experience was incredible; coping with the heat; handling such precious finds; but especially working and living with the Egyptians on the West Bank and not being a 'tourist' made the whole experience unforgettable – notably in having the honour to be welcomed as only one of two westerners to an Egyptian wedding!

I can't wait to return to the project next year! *inshallah!*



BURROUGH HILL — THE 2012 SEASON

Directors John Thomas & Jeremy Taylor report

The third season of excavation at Burrough Hill took place in June and July 2012 and was wrapped up just in time for the sun to come out! Despite losing at least three days to the terrible Summer (!) weather, everyone performed brilliantly and we achieved a great deal, with some remarkable finds made. This year we examined three areas of the hillfort interior (Trenches 5, 6 & 7), targeting anomalies revealed during the earlier geophysical survey. Trench 5 aimed to sample an area of pits, Trench 6 looked at an area of pitting, a roundhouse and part of the hillfort rampart, while a third evaluation trench (7) sought possible Roman remains in the northern part of the hillfort.

Trench 5 revealed a spread of pits around 50m inside the hillfort entrance dating from the Iron Age to early Roman period. The Iron Age pits may have originally been storage features, with many being rock-cut preserving their deep profiles very well. The presence of Roman pits was an unexpected bonus, giving a clearer picture of activity of this date across the site. Previously Roman activity appeared restricted to the northern part of the site where we began excavations in 2010. The pits produced a wonderful array of finds with huge amounts of pottery and bone, including some early Roman forms, as well as a large tally of small finds, which included a complete loom weight, querns, metalwork, spindle whorls and a beautifully decorated blue glass bead.

One of the early Roman pits in fact revealed evidence for a human burial containing a skull, part of an arm and a rib as well as a quarter of a rotary quern (lying above the person's head), an inverted horse skull, a copper alloy penannular brooch and remains of a copper alloy bowl among other things... Very odd!

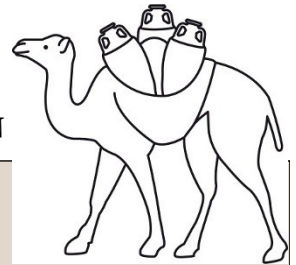
Trench 6 made a slice through the rampart at the hillfort's western side and also explored a complete roundhouse (the first to be fully examined inside the hillfort itself) and attendant features. The roundhouse remains consisted of a penannular eavesdrip gully with an east-facing entrance, a scatter of very shallow post holes and a circular area of heat-reddened soil indicating the position of the main hearth. Adjacent to this was a small pit filled with charcoal-rich hearth rakings and containing Iron Age pottery and a fine bone dice. The eavesdrop gully's rock-cut profile preserved a distinct slot in its base, but unlike the roundhouses excavated on the hillfort exterior in 2010, it contained very few finds. In contrast, pits surrounding the building were full of domestic debris, offering a rich source of information; perhaps this helps explain the unusual lack of finds from the roundhouse gully. A group of pits to the rear of the roundhouse were contained within a ditched annexe attached to the building, suggesting that at least some of these features were contemporary with the building. One of these produced a significant assemblage of ironwork including a spearhead, two knives, hooks and other tools, all of which apparently entered the pit in a still usable condition.



As with Trench 5, the pits around the roundhouse produced a very good assemblage of pottery and bone, predominantly Iron Age here, as well as other choice bits such as several bone gaming pieces, two Iron Age long dice (1 shale and 1 bone), a possible terret ring and a highly polished bone flute. A range of iron slag was present across the trench suggesting that metalworking took place in the vicinity; an outdoor hearth and a small clay-lined pit, possibly for 'quenching' hot metalwork may have been the focus of such activity. The rampart area revealed remains of two stone banks (one on the outside, another inside) which appeared to have been built to contain the main soils laid down to form the rampart core. In the final days of this year's excavation a 'hoard' of 5 complete triangular loom weights, a possible Iron Age razor and two pieces of bronze edging from a horned shield were found in a pit beneath the inner rampart bank. This remarkable array of finds will hopefully provide a *terminus ante quem* for the construction of this part of the ramparts.

Trench 7 in the northern part of the hillfort was adjacent to an area explored in 1967. Here we investigated an area of the geophysical survey that suggested Roman remains. In the event only Iron Age features were found but one was very characteristic of a large palisade slot suggesting some sort of internal division within the hillfort at some stage – for what reason we don't yet know, although the geophysical plot suggests an annexed area containing a roundhouse in this sector.

Finally, in spite of the weather we had another very successful Open Day which attracted around 500 visitors who all left happy and only mildly damp (!) On top of this around 100 people attended the annual Guided Walk as part of the Festival of Archaeology. Together with this year's school visits, other visiting groups and casual traffic we estimate that we were able to share our results with approximately 1,000 people—which is no bad thing during a Summer like this last one.



The Trans-Sahara Project

By David Mattingly, Victoria Leitch, Martin Sterry and Franca Cole

It has been a hugely busy and successful first year for Leicester's Trans-Sahara Project, a European Research Council funded 5-year initiative *exploring the nature and consequences of the interconnectivity of the Trans-Sahara zone, and the Garamantes civilisation of Fazzan, Libya in particular*. The project is led by Professor David Mattingly, and has so far appointed four post-doctoral researchers. In May we welcomed Dr Ronika Power who joined a group of researchers at the University of Cambridge, led by Dr Marta Lahr, collaborating with the Leicester team. Ronika is undertaking isotopic and other osteological analysis on a set of human remains excavated by the Desert Migrations Team. This will hopefully reveal aspects of the diet and diverse origins of the inhabitants of Fazzan. On the Leicester side, we were joined in October by Dr Franca Cole, who is looking at portable material culture, its significance in terms of trade and cultural aspects of its use.

Victoria Leitch, the ceramics specialist of the team, presented at several conferences, including the Roman Archaeology Conference in Frankfurt, and at the Study Group for Roman Pottery Frontiers conference in Glasgow. In addition, she organised a doctoral workshop in Rome investigating fish production and trade, in collaboration with the Ecole Française de Rome and the British School at Rome, where Mohamed Hesein, a University of Leicester PhD archaeology student, presented his research.



Meanwhile, Martin Sterry has found yet more evidence of settlements and fields from satellite remote-sensing having expanded our portfolio of imagery to cover outlying oases on the routes south to Niger. A particularly exciting development has been the results of a programme of 70 ¹⁴C AMS dates from a broad range of sites thanks in part to a NERC Radiocarbon Facility Grant. Not only did these show that the majority of Garamantian fortified settlements could be dated to 4th-6th centuries AD, but we also identified various phases of Islamic settlements. In November, Martin and Victoria collaborated on a paper at the Africa Archaeology

Research Days conference, which made quantified comparisons of ceramic material to try to estimate the volume of trade travelling to Fazzan and the size of the camel caravans.

A new collaborative venture has been initiated between the University of Leicester and the Maison méditerranéenne des sciences de l'homme, Aix-en-Provence University, which will facilitate the sharing of resources between the institutions, such as photographic archives, ceramic material and excavation reports.

The team has already generated 7 published or in press articles and has completed work on a first monograph, as well as delivering 10 conference or seminar papers, including a presentation in Brussels to the European Research Council and a keynote at the Africa Archaeology Research Days conference in Southampton. The project has also attracted huge publicity in the media, with a frenzy of articles on the discovery of Garamantian 'Castles in the Sand' and a forthcoming BBC documentary on the project's work in the Southern Tunisian limes.



Libyan Studies Archive

Also of high relevance for our project is the fact that The Society for Libyan Studies archive was moved from Newcastle University and is now resident in the Trans-Sahara Project offices at the University of Leicester. Recently completed PhD Tyr Fothergill created an archival catalogue and reorganised the material. The upkeep of the archive is being undertaken by University of Leicester PhD student Niccolo Mugnai, who was awarded the Society for Libyan Studies John Dore Scholarship. The archive will be an enormous help and support not only for the project, but also for students and researchers at Leicester and beyond, and we hope that this invaluable resource will be a real asset to the University's research profile.

THE TRANS-SAHARA TEAM AT LEICESTER

Professor David Mattingly is the Project Investigator

Dr Martin Sterry is Postdoctoral Research Associate for Workgroup 1 (Urbanisation and State Formation), specialising in GIS and satellite remote-sensing

Dr Victoria Leitch is Postdoctoral Research Associate for Workgroup 2 (Trade), specialising in ceramics

Dr Franca Cole is Postdoctoral Research Associate for Workgroups 2 and 3 (Trade; Human Mobility and Identity), specialising in non-ceramic material culture

European Research Council





ANOTHER SEASON IN ARDNAMURCHAN

Dr Oliver Harris reports on a busy 2012 season:

This summer saw the return of the intrepid *Ardnamurchan Transitions Project* to windy west Scotland. After last season's dramatic discovery of a Viking boat burial (now sadly over-shadowed by the excavation of some king or other here in Leicester....!) we were hoping for a quieter but nonetheless successful season of digging. Our main aims this year were to continue exploring our Iron Age promontory fort, where in 2012 we had discovered evidence for metal working and deposition, and to examine a geophysical anomaly our survey had discovered. We also decided to examine two houses in the same field as the latter feature.



For those of you who might have forgotten (how on earth...?), I should say that the aim of our project overall is to understand the long-term occupation of Swordle Bay on the north coast of the peninsula. We are interested in all periods of occupation, therefore, from the Neolithic (if not the Mesolithic) through to the present day. Whilst this means we have a big task looking across all periods, it also means that whatever we find will be of interest to us, from 18th-century lime kilns via 10th-century Viking burials to 4th millennium BC Neolithic tombs.

Our excavations again provided some really exciting results this year. In the promontory fort we discovered the remains of two structures, one of which had collapsed turf walls and

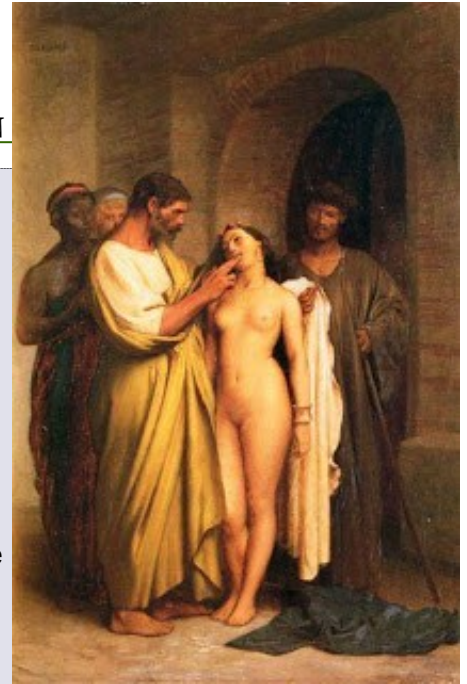
roof. The dating of these proved elusive, at least from an artefactual standpoint, so we must await C14 dates to see if they are contemporary with the promontory fort itself. In the field with our anomaly, we not only located the large ditch we had seen on our geophysics, but also an associated Bronze Age cremation (see image above), complete with a beautiful thumbnail scraper. Although we did not discover any artefacts from the ditch itself, its relation to the cremation and its complex depositional history (it was dug, deliberately backfilled, and then had a series of posts cut into it), suggests a prehistoric and likely Bronze Age date. Next summer we will turn our attention to some of the nearby 'clearance cairns' that are suspiciously barrow-like. Could we have a Bronze Age ceremonial landscape here? We have already found a Bronze Age kerbed cairn closer to the sea, so this would add to our understanding of a complex funerary landscape in the second millennium BC.

Finally, the two houses we have excavated proved intriguing in their own ways. One is clearly a 19th century cottage, matching those we excavated at Swordle Corrach between 2009 and 2011. This would have been abandoned in the Highland Clearances. But the second has a more complex history which we have only begun to tease apart. We will return next summer to see if this might well feature evidence of earlier medieval occupation. How early, we don't know, but might we have here a Viking house? Probably not, but watch this space... Who knows, maybe YOU will be one of the diggers helping us to explore and interpret this building!



Sunset at Swordle Bay

As ever, a huge vote of thanks to all our students and staff and local volunteers as well as to the Universities of Leicester and Manchester for funding the excavations, and to the Ardnamurchan Estate which continues to let us dig up their land.



Money, Sex and Slaves

By Constantina Katsari

I have finally found a way to combine my three favourite topics! In September 2012 I was co-organising the biannual Leicester-Nottingham Conference, a collaboration that spans a number of decades. This year the conference was dedicated to *Sex and Slavery* and was held at the University of Nottingham. Researchers from around the globe poured into the Midlands in order to discuss this intellectually hot topic from a comparative perspective.

My paper was entitled 'Money, Sex and Slaves in the Roman World and the Antebellum American South'. My initial goal was to explore the sexual economics of slavery and to describe the incredibly large profits coming from the home-breeding of slaves. Imagine my surprise when I realised that my research was leading me to a completely new direction. While I was writing down prices of auction houses and numbers of slave babies, other pieces of information caught my attention. Prostitution and sexual violence may have been the norm but there were also some high profile affectionate relationships between slaves and masters; among them, the case of the US President Thomas Jefferson and his black slave Sally Hemmings who became the mother of five of his offspring. Looking back at the Roman empire we also find cases of masters who fell in love with their slaves (albeit in poetry). All of these affectionate relationships had one thing in common in both societies: they were used as cautionary tales for averting the masters from entering such 'immoral' liaisons. When the warnings failed and the masters expressed openly their emotions by acknowledging their illegitimate children, the law intervened in order to contain the inevitable damage in the private and public sphere. The courts became the upholders of the status quo; a status quo that aimed at the sexual exploitation of slaves for profit and not for the fulfillment of the emotional needs of their masters.

Kostas Vlassopoulos and I hope to publish the results from this very interesting conference in the near future. This volume will be part of my work on comparative slavery and will complement another two books I published on diachronic comparisons of slave systems: *Slave Systems, Ancient and Modern* (co-editor E. Dal Lago), Cambridge University Press 2008, and *From Captivity to Freedom, Themes in Ancient and Modern Slavery* (co-editor E. Dal Lago), Leicester Monograph Series 2008. In the meantime, if you have any questions contact me on twitter at c_katsari or through my blog at <http://constantinakatsari.wordpress.com>

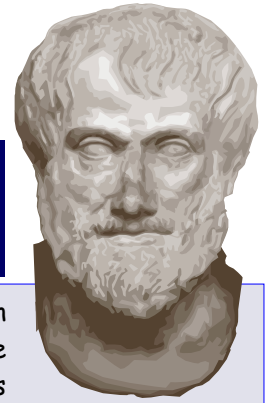
I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome our two new PhD researchers of slavery, Elisa Queenan and Jackie Williams. Elisa studies the economics of slavery in the Roman world and the antebellum American South, while Jackie studies representations of slavery in Roman and Hellenistic contexts.



PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION!

Well, these potential future archaeologists seem keen—but being Italy, I wonder if any risk assessment was prepared—a twelve page document with interminable small print and multiple issues on parental permission for photos and participation. Anyways, at least it's given the diggers some much needed break time...

Ideas for suited captions on an e-card to the editor, please! As normal, although no one seems to pay notice to this, we request that entrants attach a £10 note for major administrative purposes... stick-it notes are getting expensive, you know!



Turkey 2012: In the steps of Homer (and a few others since!)

Naoise Mac Sweeney reports: This year, the field trip for those lucky students on the *MA in the Classical Mediterranean* was held in Turkey. We started in Istanbul, and worked our way down the Aegean coast of Turkey, before returning to Istanbul at the end of the week. It was a whistle-stop tour, with site and museum visits packed into a busy schedule - but it was more than rewarding!

One of the key themes of the trip was trying to understand change and continuity over time, and getting to grips with the complex and multi-layered nature of the classical Mediterranean. In Istanbul itself, we saw artefacts from the earliest prehistoric phases of occupation, wandered around the standing monuments of Byzantine Constantinople, and enjoyed the thoroughly modern nightlife in current-day Istanbul. At the Ionian Greek cities of Miletus and Ephesus, we considered urban planning and redevelopment over the centuries. Crucial in this were the dramatic changes in the landscape caused by the silting up of ports and harbour close to the mouths of major rivers. And at the site of Troy, we walked through reconstructed mud-brick houses from the early Bronze Age, stood on the walls of the Late Bronze Age 'Homeric' city, tried out the sad replica horse (see picture below), and saw remnants of the Roman reoccupation of the site. Troy is a site which has been important to many different groups of people over the centuries, and its meaning and significance has changed over this time. This pro-

cess of inscribing meaning on the landscape continues into the present day, a fact that was brought home to us when we passed by the battlefields of Gallipoli, now a National Park.



Another theme of the trip was cultural exchange and interaction. Istanbul and the Aegean coasts of Turkey are in a region with a diverse and hybrid cultural heritage. We learnt about integration, conflict and cooperation between migrant Greeks, Persians, Romans and indigenous Anatolian groups, especially focused in the Ionian cities on the coast. Plurality and diversity, we discovered, were key to the region's unique character. As well as testing out the seating comforts of Greek theatres (like Miletus, pictured above, with fellow tour leader, Gillian Ramsay, now gainfully employed in Canada, in full flow!) and marvelling at Roman temples; we clambered up steep mountain paths to find Hittite rock-cut carvings, and puzzled our way through metres of stratigraphy at a Neolithic höyük (or 'tell' site).

But the trip was not all work, as you might expect: we managed to find a few hours for a visit to the beach, as well as taking in stunning sunset views from the citadel of Assos. All in all, an exhausting but wonderful trip. I don't know about everyone else, but I slept solidly for several days afterwards!



HUNGARIAN ENDEAVOURS:

Neolithic Archaeology and Soilscores Körös Area

Roderick B. Salisbury and Gábor Bácsmegi

“Some people say farmers are mad, but farmers are not mad. Archaeologists... archaeologists are mad”. So said a Hungarian farmer in the autumn of 2007, as he watched the slow pounding of a soil probe into dry, hard-packed Hungarian clay. Several years later, the result of all that pounding (see Figure 1, right, Roderick in coring action) is being integrated with other archaeological and environmental work, resulting in new interpretations of human-environmental interactions Neolithic Hungary. A second phase of investigations at small Neolithic settlements in the Körös Basin of eastern Hungary began in 2011, funded by a British Academy Small Grant “Prehistoric environmental mitigation: agrarian settlements and palaeohydrology in Neolithic Hungary” and run out of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester. PI Roderick Salisbury (Honorary Research Fellow, SAAH) and Hungarian co-director Gábor Bácsmegi (Békés County Museum, Hungary) are focusing on palaeoenvironmental reconstructions at two small Neolithic settlements near the village of Csárdaszállás, on the Hungarian Great Plain.



The project addresses several questions surrounding changes in Neolithic lifeways during the transition from the Middle to Late Neolithic (c. 5500 – 5000 BC), when scattered groups of small farmsteads nucleated in a few distinct locations. Several generations of reoccupation of these locations resulted in the development of large settlement mounds, usually called ‘tells’. Although several possible reasons for this change have been postulated in the past, the reasons for it remain a mystery. This project investigates palaeohydrology, palaeoenvironment and settlement structure, asking: (1) What is the relationship between small Neolithic farmsteads and groundwater levels? (2) Is settlement nucleation and the development of super-sites or tells how Neolithic people mitigated small-scale climate change? (3) How does the use of settlement space change over time, and what is the patterning of cultural soilscores in the period leading up to tell and supersite formation?

The sites of Csárdaszállás 8 and Csárdaszállás 26 were first identified in the 1970s and 1980s during the Hungarian Archaeological Topography project. Roderick used these sites as part of his PhD research, conducting archaeological geochemical surveys at both sites during 2007–2009 as the first phase of investigations for this project. In 2011, Roderick and Gábor began a second phase of geophysical prospection, surface collection and environmental coring at the sites. Geochemical analysis revealed the chemical signatures of middens, cleaned/trampled areas and food preparation areas. During field walking we identified ceramics from the Middle and Late Neolithic. In addition, we recovered several obsidian tools and part of a zoomorphic figurine, along with other stone tools, bone, burnt wall daub and shell.

Our geophysical investigation was the first geomagnetic survey conducted in the Csárdaszállás microregion. A team led by Gábor Bertók (see Figure 2 below, Gábor with Csilla Gáti) found a series of longhouses at Csárdaszállás-8, the southern site. At Csárdaszállás-26, we identified the first known enclosed small site from this period in eastern Hungary.



Pál Sümegi, from the University of Szeged, joined us to assist with the collection and analysis of environmental samples. We took samples from a relict channel of the Körös River, located between the two sites, for environmental data, including pollen, charcoal, molluscs, geochemistry and magnetic susceptibility. Such data will help us to reconstruct changes in groundwater levels, rate of flow in the channel, vegetation and palaeoclimate in this microregion. In addition, charcoal samples are being radiocarbon dated at the Poznan Radiocarbon Laboratory.

The results we have so far indicate the presence of pits and houses at both sites, and at least two habitation layers

at the site of Csárdaszállás 26. Publications from the 2011 season will appear in the journals *Archaeological Prospection* and *Environmental Archaeology* in early 2013. In the next field season, we will extend the surface survey to adjacent areas, use mechanized geophysics for full coverage geomagnetic survey on the surrounding landscape, use Ground Penetrating Radar at Csárdaszállás 26 in an effort to identify houses from different habitation layers, and collect additional environmental samples.

Over the course of the past few years, Csárdaszállás has broken two automobiles, a motor for the environmental drill, and three geological hardpoints that we would have used to set up our survey grids. Despite these setbacks, we remain convinced that these sites will yield the data needed to understand the relationships between changes in settlement systems and changes in climate during the Hungarian Neolithic.

Outreach News (Oct. 2011 - Dec. 2012)

by the School's Outreach and Careers Officer, Debbie Miles-Williams

Yet another excellent year for the Outreach Program! With help from our fantastic student volunteers we have worked with 10 local city and county schools, ages ranging from 5 to 16 years old. Most visits were to explain the different techniques that archaeologists use to look at excavated evidence, bones, pottery, plant remains and artefacts/chronology. But there were some exceptions. Two further visits were by 2nd year undergraduate students, to trial the lesson plans that they had designed and created as part of their group projects for the Professional Skills module. The lesson plans formed the basis to help create a future education pack on the theme "Graffiti Art Past-Present". These sessions were delivered through a year 7 History class and a Year 8 Art class and demonstrated to both pupils and teachers how archaeology can be used in the National Curriculum.

October 2011 a new project came to the notice of Outreach Officer Debbie Miles-Williams, via Masters student James Spry when he joined the department's student outreach volunteers. James had been involved in "Operation Nightingale" - a project that is using archaeology to help rehabilitate injured soldiers. A small number of experienced archaeology students took part in initial investigations on site at Whitewall Brake, Caerwent, SE Wales, on the weekend of January 7th & 8th 2012. Debbie Miles-Williams and Mike Hawkes visited the site to assess excavation and post-excavation involvement for students and to advise on outreach opportunities with the general public. Deirdre O'Sullivan visited to discuss Distance Learning opportunities with several of the soldiers, some of whom have now registered for degree programs. Also present was Surgeon Commodore Peter Buxton of the Joint Medical Command (completed the Leicester Archaeology DL MA course, graduated Jan 2008 with Distinction), who is keenly supportive of the project! Simon James was then invited to visit the site and is now the academic link to the project. A further week's excavation took place in March with 10 students attending; another week of fieldwork is planned for March 2013.

In March our student volunteers delivered hands-on activities during the "Voice for Life" event held at the University's John Foster Halls, organized by AFASIC. This was a challenge for us all as the pupils had various ranges of language difficulties, including the inability to use expressive speech to articulate and express their opinions, receptive difficulty, and some were also on the autistic scale or had learning difficulties. Due to the style of delivery by our volunteers it was a great success and once again demonstrates how wonderfully inclusive is the subject of archaeology - a continuous theme throughout the year's outreach program!

Late March Debbie Miles-Williams and Oliver Harris represented the department at the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Network Projects History Fair, held in the beautiful Beaumanor Hall, Woodhouse, Leicestershire.



In April we held a two-day residential course for Year 10 pupils. They had a go at several hands-on techniques that real Archaeologists use, such as studying bones, pottery, chronology and seeds and attended talks on "What can ancient graffiti tell us", and "Why Can't CSI compete with Archaeology?" They also had to decide where their feelings lie about using human bones for research once they had heard both sides of the story in "The Only Way is Ethics" session. And discussed "An unholy alliance? - The use of Archaeology and History to render ancient cities in video games". The two day residential finished with a very poignant session on Battlefield Archaeology and in attendance was a First World War re-enactor to talk about life as a soldier (see image on left). PG students James Spry and Anna Walas made great student mentors, staying with the pupils in the halls of residence; they even managed to deliver a fun quiz to reflect on all the pupils had learned!

On campus, the following took place:

- April - Another successful Masterclass Taster for A Level students took place in April. Talks delivered by academic staff and PhD students on: "You are what you eat" - an exploration of food and identity in archaeology; "Why CSI can't compete with archaeology" - Prehistoric people and silent secrets written in their burials; "Slaves and the slaves experience in the Roman World" - Or, "what was it like to be a slave?"; "An unholy alliance?" - The use of archaeology and history to render ancient cities in video games
- Leicester Young Archaeologists Club - sessions delivered on "Human bones", "Textiles in Archaeology" and the "History of Warfare - with re-enactors" plus a day's excavation at Burrough Hill.
- June/July saw local schools visiting the Burrough Hill fort Project, for guided tours of the site and to see the finds. A very successful open day was held on July 1st attracting over 500 visitors to take the guided tours around the site and talk to the specialists about the finds, pottery, animal bones discovered on the project; and to see three iron Age re-enactors! Our student volunteers delivered hands-on activities for children and they even designed a children's guided tour quiz for children!

All these events plus all the wonderful talks that staff from both SAAH & ULAS give at conferences, society meetings, etc gave us a grand total of contact with around 4000 members of the general public. Not bad at all—and enjoyable too!



Mike Hawkes talks to pupils at Loughborough Grammar School

Chasing dragons in the Bornean rainforest

By Bori Nyiri

The summer of 2007 was not only the first field season of the *Cultured Rainforest Project* (CRF) but also the beginning of my encounter with dragons. Since then, I've been chasing them through the depths of the lush Bornean rainforest, through the smoky galleries of traditional long-houses and through dusty, and often incredibly hot, muse-



um collections. And, no, it has nothing to do with opium! The focus of my cross-disciplinary PhD study (just underway at Leicester) are the so-called 'dragon jars', large stoneware vessels, originally produced in China and Vietnam during the time of the Song dynasty (AD 960-1279). In the 14th century, with the intensification of long-distance trade, these storage jars reached the coastal settlements of island Southeast Asia, where not only the goods they contained, but the jars themselves became sought-after items by indigenous groups. Dragon jars became incorporated into local traditions and important indicators of social status as heirlooms; as vessels for brewing *borak* rice beer; and as containers for burying the dead. These jars are about 90 cm high – and capable of holding a human body – and many feature a pair of flying dragons on the shoulder, covered with a shiny brown glaze.

The *Cultured Rainforest Project* (2007-2010) focused its research around the village of Pa' Dalih, in the southern Kelabit highlands, close to the Indonesian border and c. 200 km from the coast. The project investigated past and present interactions between people and the rainforest. As part of this project, I surveyed nine dragon jar cemeteries (see photo above), most of which were established in the past 200 years. It appears that there was an influx of ceramics reaching the highlands after Chinese potters set up workshops in the coastal towns of Sarawak

during the Brookes rule from the 1840s onwards. The Kelabit converted to Christianity after World War II, and the last burial according to the old, animistic traditions took place in the 1950s.

My archaeological study builds upon the CRF project results and will analyse ceramic data from the southern highlands, with additional material from the northern region, in order to understand selection patterns of jars used for burial in the entire highland area. The second part of my research explores the ethnographic aspects of heirloom jars still kept in long-houses (see photo 2, below) or which have been transported to modern town homes as people have moved away from traditional lifestyles. Does the once magical power of these jars persist? How has the value of these objects changed with their journey through pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial non-Western social environments? And lastly, from a museum studies perspective, how do these local value systems feature contemporary exhibition narratives? I aim to integrate these three tiers by looking beyond the objects themselves, exploring the issues of value, representation and materiality. It will not be an easy task, but I reckon my ancestor's long Transylvanian tradition of dealing with dragons will help me tame the ones on Borneo too.

Website: www.theculturedrainforest.com

Exhibitions:

- * Cambridge, the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, UK, Easter 2013.
- * Sarawak Museum, Kuching, Malaysia, June 2013
- * Miri, Petroleum Museum, Malaysia, July 2013

Below: Supang Galih (Sinah Nabun Aran) with her treasured heirloom jars in the village of Pa' Lungan





Tracing the Portable Past

1st EIAAS – European Iron Age Artefacts Symposium

On the 6th and 7th October 2012, the 1st **European Iron Age Artefacts Symposium** was held by the School of Archaeology and Ancient History.

The event, funded by the Graduate School Researcher Development Fund and the Portable Antiquities Scheme and organised by current postgraduate students Anna Booth, Marta Fanello and Anna Lewis, was designed to stimulate debates on different aspects of the study of European Iron Age materials, to provide a framework for further ideas and to promote the development of a research network.

A total of 16 papers were delivered by postgraduate students, advanced researchers and museum professionals from different UK and European universities and organisations; papers focused on a range of portable artefacts - from swords and tankards to beads and coins - found within different regions, from Scotland to southern Italy, Germany and France.

A warm introduction was given by former Head of School, Professor Colin Haselgrove. The four sessions focused

around different themes were chaired by Dr Tom Moore from Durham University, Adam Gwilt from the National Museum Wales, Dr Julia Farley from the British Museum and Dr Rachel

Pope from the University of Liverpool. There was extensive discussion around the main themes of the symposium, including artefact production and distribution, material culture and identity, and artefact analysis and curation.

The event has generated enthusiastic feedback and many positive comments, which help to confirm the University of Leicester as a leading institute in the community of Iron Age studies, and as a noted promoter of knowledge-sharing activities. Almost 50 delegates attended the event.

The Organising Committee wish to thank all the delegates, speakers and chairs. A special thank you goes to Prof Colin Haselgrove for his input; to Roger Bland and the Portable Antiquities for their support; to Neil Christie, Sharon North and Rachel Godfrey for their invaluable assistance.

EIAAS: THE 2012 SYMPOSIUM

*Report by Anna Booth,
Marta Fanello and Anna
Lewis*

A Roman *Hacksilber* Hoard ‘Unearthed’ in the Archives!

Doing archive work can sound somewhat uninspiring, but it can be rewarding to both your CV and your research. Applications for jobs in museums, units or academia often request a detailed knowledge of artefacts, and the best way to get this is to experience objects first-hand. Sadly it is commonly assumed that once an excavation report has been published there is nothing more to say about the finds from a site, but rarely, if ever, is this the case. My recent experience in the archives of the nearby Rutland County Museum is an interesting example.



I volunteered to help catalogue finds from the Roman fort, villa and small town at Great Casterton, Rutland. The sites were excavated throughout the 1950s and early 60s but the deaths of the excavators meant that their work was never fully published. England's smallest county also lacked a museum at the time, which led to the finds being divided up between various institutions, and only now are they beginning to be fully inventoried. As with any good archaeological archive, the finds remain in a variety of vintage packaging from cigar boxes to washing powder packets, some of which might now be considered to be artefacts themselves.

It was something of a shock to both me and the curator when I found a box labelled simply “SILVER HOARD”. What lay within were the mangled remains of 10 pieces of Roman *Hacksilber*, which, although briefly mentioned in an interim report, have never been illustrated, let alone properly studied. The hoard had been hidden outside the walls of the small town, besides one of its projecting bastions, at some point in the unstable final years of the Roman province. Such hoards are rare within the bounds of the empire, and it thus raises many questions.

Despite the hoard's mutilated appearance it has been carefully portioned up. In total it weighs almost exactly half of one Roman pound, and many of its fragments seem to conform to other smaller standard units. Initial study suggests the hoard contains parts of at least one large silver platter, a hand raised silver cup (possibly similar to that in the Hallaton Treasure), and a silver hair pin. This pin is particularly interesting since it appears to be the only known silver example of a local East Midlands form. It is hoped that the metal content of the hoard will be analysed in the School using X-ray fluorescence, to help us understand just how many vessels are represented, and their quality.

Ian Marshman (PhD student, investigating as his day job Roman gemstones in Britain – ijm16@le.ac.uk)



Archaeology in Morocco: there and back again

By current PhD scholar and researcher Niccolo Mugnai

The aim of my PhD is to reconstruct the architecture and architectural decoration of public buildings in *Mauretania Tingitana* (northern Morocco), across the late Mauretanian and Roman provincial eras (1st century BC - 3rd century AD). Seven urban sites are the core case studies: *Banasa* (Sidi Ali bou Djenoun); *Zilil* (Dchar Jdid); *Lixus* (Tchemmich); *Sala* (Chellah); *Volubilis* (Ksar Pharaoun); *Thamusida* (Sidi Ali ben Ahmed); and *Tingi* (Tangier).

The main part of my research consists of solo fieldwork in Morocco. Wandering across some of the most important archaeological sites, I aim to study and record the preserved specimens of architectural decoration (bases, capitals, mouldings, etc.). The operation is exciting and challenging at the same time. Almost none of these materials have been studied before, and this means I am dealing with first hand data. On the other hand, the major shortcoming is that most of the time I must face very practical issues: try to open a passage through the thick vegetation (not to mention possible encounters with exotic animals...), or attempt to measure and take pictures of capitals repositioned on the top of their columns (those of the *capitolium* at *Volubilis* are about 6 metres high!).

I started my field research in September 2011. The data collection is far from being concluded, while the deadline for the thesis submission is closer and closer. "Do not worry and keep going" I try to say to myself. What makes me go on, maybe, is that sense of adventure within the journey: every time I return to Morocco it feels like the first time. There is always something I did not notice before, or did not fully understand.

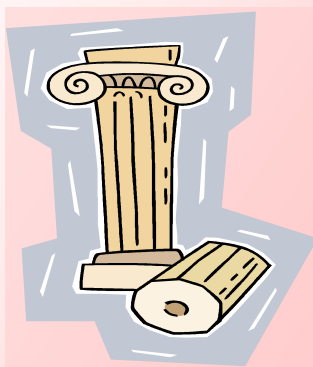
While I do not know yet what the outcome of my research will be, I am sure of one thing especially: namely that I will never get tired of Morocco, of its people and their hospitality!

Photos:

Top: Niccolo at Volubilis, modelling with a Late Roman decorated impost-block

Left: the rich archaeological site of Chellah (Rabat), with the mosque and the Roman ruins of Sala





Intriguing and learned advice and guidance...

To grow or not to grow?

Dear Deirdre,

Inspired by Bradley Wiggins' triumphs, I was thinking that I might grow sideburns, or even a beard to show how serious I am about the fate of the world. But I don't know if this would combine with my current laid-back, cynical persona; and I don't want to be mistaken for some old archaeological grungie. Please advise. **Darren** (aged 19), from Coalville

There is a lot of categorical confusion here, Darren. First, Bradley Wiggins is a world class athlete. His style of facial pruning is completely unrelated to the superhuman qualities of determination, skill and resilience needed to achieve this status. And if you are truly concerned about the fate of the world, your facial hairstyle should also be a small concern.

I suspect, however, that you lack any great ambitions at the moment and are more concerned about being on-message with your personal style. Sideburns elongate the face, so if yours is round or chubby they may lend you some gravitas. Combined with a cotton check shirt and blue jeans, you will come across as a trustworthy, lumberjack type. On these grounds alone, a laid-back, cynical persona is something you should quickly dispense with.

Beards are a much more complex topic, simultaneously projecting all sorts of dissonant and wholesome images. Without a major research grant to inform my advice I can only offer a few personal perspectives. Some of the most likeable people I know have 'em, but I don't care for untrimmed beards; your wariness about archaeogrungies plucks a chord. Heavy black beards, starting below the eye-sockets, are a male *niqab*, shrouding individual personality. Excessively manicured facial fungus also makes me wary. Yet look at the Victorian era – enormous quantities of facial hair, covering the chins of patriarchs in every field from politics to penal colonists.... Room for thought!

X Deirdre

Murdered, remembered, shameless, credible?*

Dear Deirdre,

In my primary school history class, I learnt that King Richard III was killed at Bosworth Field and buried in the Leicester Greyfriars. So what is all the fuss about? **Maryam** (20) from Wigston (law student)

Dear Maryam,

The 'fuss' has nothing to do with the 15th century, and everything to do with the 21st, when global interest can be manufactured through media saturation, especially in the summer season. Carried out with all due care for standards, the 'hunt for Richard III' was nonetheless created for this environment.

There have been material benefits. The project has projected a fresh image of the city as an historic and eventful place, with the potential that this holds for an economic boost – the fact that the event in question was no discovery seems irrelevant in the media zone. Archaeology speaks to the tangible, and the find of the skeleton created understandable excitement locally about the place of the past in the present. And speaking purely personally, it was great to experience the thermodynamics of a situation where my expertise about medieval friaries was genuinely useful and appreciated.

However, there is plenty of room for cynicism. The lure of media attention has created a bizarre troupe of enthusiasts out to 'spin the king' at every opportunity. The initiators of the project, the Richard III Society, have been doing this for years, but I have been bemused by the speed with which those who have never taken any interest in archaeology and history in the city have managed to find a personal stake in a cause celebre! For example, the local MP, Jon Ashworth, has been awarded the title of 'MP of the Month' in November by the Magazine *Total Politics* for his defence of the need to rebury Richard III in Leicester Cathedral; the Uni's director of Corporate Affairs and Planning led the initial press release. And there are more...

But it looks as though the future of British justice may be safe in your hands, Maryam. It is very heartening to hear that your primary school history training is still of service— you have kept a firm grasp of the facts in the case. Would that all will do the same.

Best wishes,

Deirdre xx

** With apologies to Seamus Heaney and his poem about the Windeby Girl bog body: 'murdered, forgotten, nameless, terrible' - from Strange Fruit, in North (London: Faber 1975).*

VICKY PARK



RACHAEL SMITH